CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

    providing compressed data that has been compressed using a first encoder having an associated first decoder that can be used to uncompress the compressed data;

    providing the compressed data to at least one second decoder that is different from the first decoder;

    uncompressing the compressed data to provide uncompressed data; and

    operating on the uncompressed data to provide modified uncompressed data.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising rendering the modified uncompressed data using a rendering application.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing the compressed data to the second decoder comprises searching for an ID tag associated with the compressed data and which corresponds to the second decoder.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second decoder comprises a wrapper for the first decoder, said uncompressing comprising providing the compressed data to the wrapped first decoder.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the second decoder comprises a wrapper for the first decoder, said uncompressing comprising providing the compressed data to the wrapped first decoder so that the wrapped first decoder can uncompress the compressed data, and further comprising providing the modified uncompressed data to the second decoder so that the second decoder can provide the modified uncompressed data to a rendering application for rendering.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the compressed data comprises audio data.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the compressed data comprises video data.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the compressed data comprises both audio data and video data.

9.   A method comprising;

providing a compressed file that has been compressed using a first encoder having an associated first decoder that can be used to uncompress the compressed file, the compressed file comprising at least one ID tag that is associated with a second decoder that is different from the first decoder and that serves as a wrapper for the first decoder;

searching for said at least one ID tag to identify the second decoder;

providing the compressed file to the second decoder so that the compressed file can be uncompressed;

using the second decoder, providing the compressed file to the first decoder;

uncompressing the compressed file using the first decoder to provide an uncompressed file;

providing the uncompressed file to a modification module;

modifying the uncompressed file using the modification module to provide a modified uncompressed file;

providing the modified uncompressed file to the second decoder;

using the second decoder, providing the modified uncompressed file to a rendering application; and

rendering the modified uncompressed file on a client device using the rendering application.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said searching is performed by the rendering application.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said compressed file comprises compressed audio data.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said compressed file comprises compressed video data.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said compressed file comprises both compressed audio data and compressed video data.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein said compressed file comprises a compressed media file.

15. A method comprising:

receiving a file comprising compressed data and information associated with an encoder that compressed source data corresponding to the compressed data, said information being configured for use in locating a first decoder that corresponds to the encoder and which can be used to uncompress the compressed data;

searching for the information;

replacing the information with different information that is associated with a second decoder that is different from the first decoder and which can be used, at least in part, to uncompress the compressed data.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein both said information and said different information comprise respective ID tags.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said compressed data comprises audio data.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said compressed data comprises video data.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein said compressed data comprises both audio data and video data.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the second decoder comprises a wrapper for the first decoder.

21. A software application comprising:

an encoding application configured to:

receive a file comprising compressed data and information associated with an encoder that compressed source data corresponding to the compressed data, said information being configured for use in locating a first decoder that corresponds to the encoder and which can be used to uncompress the compressed data;

search for the information;

replace the information with different information that is associated with a second decoder that is different from the first decoder and which can be used, at least in part, to uncompress the compressed data.

22. The software application of claim 21, wherein the second decoder comprises a wrapper for the first decoder.

23. A decoder application comprising a wrapper for a first decoder that is associated with an encoder that was used to compress original source data, the wrapper being configured to receive compressed source data from a rendering application; provide the compressed source data to the first decoder so that the compressed source data can be uncompressed; receive back modified source data that has been modified in some way so that the modified source data is different from the original source data; and provide the modified source data to the rendering application for rendering.

24. The decoder application of claim 23 further comprising a modification module associated with the wrapper for receiving uncompressed source data, modifying the source data, and providing the modified source data back to the wrapper.

25. The decoder application of claim 23 further comprising a modification module comprising part of the wrapper and configured to modify the source data.

26. The decoder application of claim 23, wherein the original source data comprises video data.

27. The decoder application of claim 23, wherein the original source data comprises audio data.

28. The decoder application of claim 23, wherein the original source data comprises both audio data and video data.